

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 22 remain in this application.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome all of the rejections noted in the *Final Office Action*.

The objections to claims 1-2 have been overcome by amendment. However, the objection to claim 3 for lacking an antecedent for "said fence face" is not understood as claim 1 recites an independent "fence face" in line 9.

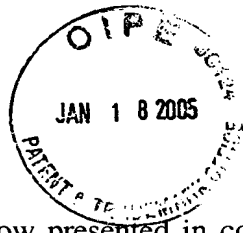
The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 based upon the indefinite lines 6-8 of claim 1 has been overcome by amendment.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has also been overcome by substantive amendment to claim 1. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to precisely recite that the keyhole shaped slots are spaced from one another and that each has an enlarged end for receiving the stud head and a narrow end for retaining the stud head. Clearly, the plates 144 and 146 and elongated channels 140 of Miller '642 do not respond to the claimed plurality of spaced and separate keyhole shaped slots with enlarged and narrow ends. The claimed attachment is completely different than the plate 144 and channel 140 attachment of Miller.

In a more specific manner, dependent claim 22 adds that each keyhole slot is disposed in a plate 40.

In summary, it is respectfully requested that this §116 amendment be admitted, or in the alternative, the final rejection be withdrawn and the amendment be admitted for continued prosecution on the merits. To that end, it is respectfully submitted that the

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Application, as amended three times, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

January 14, 2005
Date

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold W. Milton, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for Serial No. 10/657,280 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to **MAILSTOP: AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 14, 2005.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne L. Kubit", written over a horizontal line.

Anne L. Kubit

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